GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3178
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
Spread of Terrorism via Social Media
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether acts of terrorism are being spread through social networking sites;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to take any action to curb the spread of terrorism via social networking sites; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) and (b): Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. The cyberspace is virtual, borderless and offers complete anonymity. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for spread of terror through the use of social media is higher than ever, posing a threat to sovereignty and integrity of the country. The Security / Intelligence agencies are regularly monitoring social media sites. Instances of using the social media/ websites by terror groups has come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(c) and (d): Government takes prompt action under Section 69A of Information Technology Act 2000 for blocking of websites/ URLs with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders for blocking of websites/ URLs. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act requires that the Intermediaries (such as social media) shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of Computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable and unlawful in any way.
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